February 12, 2012
Issue number: 879
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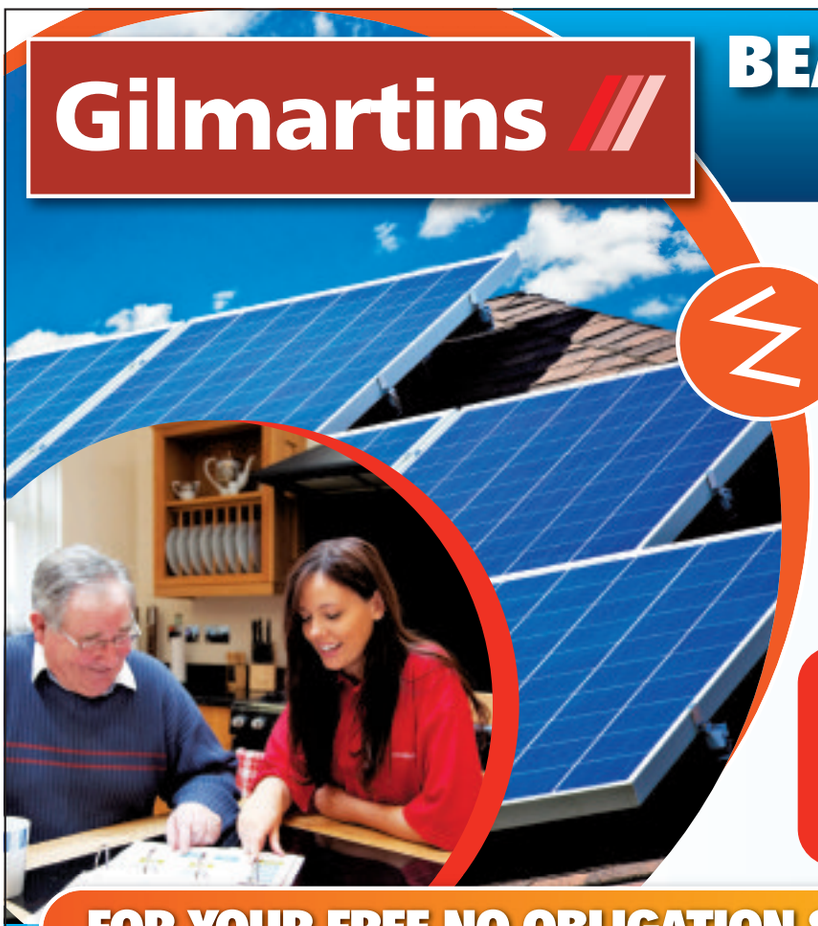

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How charity will benefit from £300k windfall

onpages 16 & 17

Images released in hunt for bike thieves

onpage 24

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Snow-go area: MPs' early election row

EXCLUSIVE

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

SEVENTY-YEAR-OLD Luton Labour MP Kelvin Hopkins has been out canvassing in the snow in Dunstable three years before the next scheduled general election - sparking a row with the town's Tory MP.

Mr Hopkins braved the wintry conditions to visit Dunstable's residents last weekend, armed with his red clipboard, in a bid to get a head start on his future election rivals.

It is part of Labour's plan to begin targeting the town's voters now for 2015, by which time new constituency boundary change proposals could see the area 'swallowed up' and become part of Mr Hopkins' Luton North patch.

Should the changes get the green light, South West Bedfordshire Conservative MP Andrew Selous would lose Dunstable from his constituency area - but that has not stopped him having a dig at Mr Hopkins for kicking off his election campaign on a patch that he still technically represents and does not want to lose.

Mr Selous said: "I do think it is a premature move but I also think this is more a question for the residents in Luton North, to ask why their MP is working outside his own constituency. At present Dunstable is not part of the Luton North constituency, and may well never be."

Mr Hopkins said: "It is not unusual for us to canvass in other constituencies. Dunstable Labour Party invited us over to help them out with canvassing in the area, and we did.

"We've had a positive response both from Labour supporters who have said it's nice to see us out and about, and from people who voted Conservative at the last election and have become disillusioned with the party.

"If the boundary proposals are accepted then it would make a significant difference to the constituency, but even if they aren't, canvassing is a good opportunity to go out and speak to people.

"If Andrew or any of the Conservatives wanted to come and canvass in Luton I'd accept that."

Labour Party organiser Francis Steer said: "Kelvin Hopkins, Luton South MP Gavin Shuker and several councillors have been out canvassing in Dunstable and have had a very positive response. It can never be too early to start getting out there and speaking to people."

No final decision on the controversial boundary changes will be made until next year.

■ The fight for Dunstable is hotting up - See page 8.

UNDER FIRE: Kelvin Hopkins

Criticism for no-vote tax hike option

A MOVE to raise Luton's council tax by 3.4 per cent - the highest possible rise without needing to consult the public - has been branded 'cynical'.

Councillors at Luton Borough Council will tomorrow discuss plans to increase taxes in the town and go against the Government, which has stated that any authority that freezes its tax will be entitled to a grant.

Under the Localism Act, any council proposing an increase of 3.5 per cent is required to hold a referendum.

By setting the increase at 3.4 per cent, the council would not have to hold a town-wide vote on the issue.

Cllr David Franks, who is leader of Luton Liberal Democrats, said: "This is a cynical move; of course they have done it deliberately.

"The last thing they want is to go to a referendum to the people across the town as they know what the answer to that will be."

Labour Cllr Robin Harris said: "The council's executive committee recognises how difficult any increase in council tax will be for the people of Luton.

"However, if Luton Borough Council was to take the money on offer from the Government, it would leave us with a multi-million pound hole in the following year's budget that would grow larger, to around £8 million over the next five years.

"The talk of a referendum is being used as a smokescreen to hide the real issue.

"We don't have any choice. We either implement this increase now, or face more pain later."

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Airport reveals plan to up passenger numbers

EXCLUSIVE

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@lutononsunday.co.uk

THIS is the first look at the plans to expand Luton Airport to take 18 million passengers which go out to consultation tomorrow.

Speaking exclusively to *Luton on Sunday*, lead officer of London Luton Airport Limited (LLAL) Steve Heappey explained what changes are proposed to the existing site.

The public consultation was due to begin last week but had to be put on hold for an extra week so more work could be done on the plans.

The proposals, which are detailed in a map, show that the airport terminal would itself be reconfigured. Mr Heappey explains that in doing so it would bring the airport into the 21st century.

He said: "We will make better use of the space. At the moment there is a colossal check-in hall and you rarely see all the desks in use.

"That is absolutely a sign of the times where airlines encourage people to check-in at home online.

"So there will be less check-in desks, better baggage drop facilities and security areas where it can be a real bottleneck at peak times.

"There will also be more places for people to sit and relax."

Outside the terminal building a new bus drop-off area will be created - which will be connected to the Luton and Dunstable Busway - as well as a multi-storey car park for drop-off and short-stay parking.

More gates will also be installed next to the aircraft stand, allowing more planes to park and therefore take more passengers. The six-week consultation starts at 2pm tomorrow at The Hat Factory in Bute Street, Luton. For more information visit www.futureluton.co.uk

Town Hall hits back at negative city status poll

A POLL suggesting that Luton is not 'deserving' of becoming a city has been dismissed by the council.

The YouGov survey of more than 1,600 people shows that the town is the third least worthy of an upgrade in the eyes of the public but they place Bournemouth and Reading as the most.

Luton, which along with 25 other towns, is bidding to become a city as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Neighbouring bidder Milton Keynes is seen as being only slightly more deserving than Luton.

A Luton Town Hall spokesman said: "Love Luton campaign is backed not only by the council but has been financed to the tune of more than £150,000 by private sector business sponsors and has enjoyed overwhelming support from community and voluntary groups at a number of significant events that have successfully raised Luton's profile both locally and nationally.

"Our e-petition now has more than 2,400 names, sending a strong message that Luton deserves city status."

A decision is expected towards the end of the month, or at the beginning of March.

Middlesbrough and Reading are among those in the running for gaining city status, which could potentially be given to more than one town.

newsbriefs

UNI CHIEF WAITING TO HEAR ON NEW ROLE

UNIVERSITY of Bedfordshire boss, Professor Les Ebdon, hopes MPs who blocked his bid to become the new head of Fair Access to Higher Education will do a U-turn.

This week the Business, Innovation and Skills select committee voted against proposals by Business Secretary Vince Cable and Universities Minister David Willetts that he take up the post in April.

Professor Ebdon said: "I know that the Secretary of State is considering the report of the Select Committee and I am awaiting his decision."

GREEN SYSTEM WILL SAVE EASYJET FUEL

EASYJET is the first airline to sign up to a new green electric system to run its planes.

The Luton-based budget airline will trial the Electric Green Taxiing System which allows aircraft to taxi without the use of engines.

At present the carrier uses four per cent of fuel while taxiing. The project will start trialling next year.

OLLY MURS FANS IN FOR A TWEET TREAT

WOULD you like to win tickets to see Olly Murs perform at the Love Luton 2012 Festival?

If so, follow Luton Borough Council's Twitter account (@lutoncouncil) and tweet the reason why you want to go to the July festival using the hashtag, #LutonFestival.

To win tickets to see The Wanted, who play on the previous day, go on to the Facebook page and sign up. When there are 300 'likes' a name will be picked.

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Tattoo parlour raiders who shot men are put behind bars

TWO men have been jailed for their involvement in an armed robbery at a tattoo parlour in Maidenhead, during which two people were shot.

Drizz James, of Purley Centre, Luton, and Leon Dorman, of Hinton Walk, Houghton Regis, were sentenced after being found guilty of conspiracy to rob and possessing a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

James was handed two sentences of nine years to run concurrently, while Dorman was given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum of eight years.

The court heard how the pair travelled with Anthony Cooke and Joseph Gentle, both of Bedford, to Fantasy Fine Line tattoo parlour in Maidenhead on April 11 last year with the intention to rob the establishment.

Drizz James

Leon Dorman

But the robbery did not go to plan and two men, aged 45 and 41, who were inside the parlour, were shot.

CCTV stills from a camera in a hotel in Aylesbury have also been released, which show where the men fled after the attack.

James, Dorman and Cooke can all be seen on the footage, having left Maidenhead in a taxi following a failed attempt to leave the town in a getaway car.

A fifth man, Sean Fury, 29, of Essex Close, Luton, who was also arrested in connection with this incident, admitted a charge of conspiracy to supply class A drugs at Reading Crown Court on October 25, 2011.

Stop and search data causes cops 'concern'

EXCLUSIVE

BY LUI STRACCIA
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POLICE say they are 'concerned' with figures showing that a 'disproportionate number of black and Asian under-25s are stopped and searched'.

Over the past three years in Luton, 44 per cent of the 8,700 under-25 men and women stopped and searched were non-white.

This is 12 per cent higher than the figure for the town's entire non-white population, which is 32 per cent.

The alarming statistic was uncovered by a Freedom of Information Act request by *Luton on Sunday*, following growing worries across the country about stop and search powers.

Bedfordshire Police said they could not provide figures as to how many of the 8,700 stopped and searched were charged with offences as 'stop and search doesn't record the outcome of whether an individual was subsequently charged.' They added: 'We would have to check each individual record against various other systems to provide the information and it would require hundreds of records to be manually checked'.

LoS asked the force to respond specifically to 12 questions relating to the stop and search figures for Luton, but they refused to answer them directly.

Instead a statement from Assistant Chief Constable Andrew Richer was issued which 'covers the whole of the county as the stop and search powers are used county-wide, not just in Luton'.

He said: 'The use of stop and search is a valuable and carefully applied power under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, available to all police officers in England and Wales.

'In Bedfordshire we are confident that who gets stopped has nothing to do with their ethnicity. Instead it is based on one of two things.

'Either our intelligence reliably informs us they are prolific offenders who are actively committing crime or because they are seen in genuinely suspicious circumstances which demand a police response if the force is to effectively carry out its duty to fight crime and protect the public.

'As a force we have made considerable improvements in how we brief our officers so that they can recognise and target known active offenders more intelligently.

'While the figures clearly do show that a disproportionate number of black and Asian people under the age of 25 are stopped and searched, this reflects the picture nationally and is not peculiar to Bedfordshire.

'The figures are, of course, of concern but the causes appear complex.

'The force does closely monitor the performance of individual officers for a variety of reasons including the issue of potential bias.

'It also regularly shares its data with key community groups across the county as well as Bedfordshire Police Authority, which also regularly scrutinises our performance in these areas.'

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Fire crews first up for 24-hour shifts

BY LUI STRACCIA
lui.straccia@lutononsunday.co.uk

FIREFIGHTERS in Bedfordshire will become the first in the country to work 24-hour shifts, it has been confirmed.

A brigade-wide pattern was agreed and signed with the Fire Brigade Union last week, with Luton and Bedford changing first as of May, and Stopsley, Kempston and Dunstable switching before the end of the year.

Currently the shift pattern is two days (9am-6pm) and two nights (6pm-9am) on, three days off. This would change to 24 hours on, 72 hours off, with firefighters having a dedicated seven hour rest period from midnight, where they will only be attending emergency calls.

No firefighters will lose their jobs purely as a result of the shift change, although the brigade still has a target of losing 24 full time posts through the non-replacement of staff, as opposed to redundancies, over the next few years.

Last year's budget cuts from the Coalition Government left Bedfordshire and Luton Fire Service with a £2.8 million shortfall over the next four years.

ON THE SCENE: Tackling a fire at Hart Hill Lane

FBU secretary Lee Moon said: "We originally wanted it to start in January 2013 to give us time to ensure the policies were in place, but the principal officers did not agree.

"It's a much longer working day, so there are fire safety issues for us and the public, but the service is quite intent on it."

Chief Fire Officer Paul Fuller said: "The public will notice no change when they dial 999. We will still respond as quickly and with the same resources as before.

"The health and safety of our firefighters is of paramount concern to us. The welfare of our firefighters directly impacts on their safety and the safety of the community.

"The new 24-hour shift system allows us to have more influence and control over the rest they have – both at work and between shifts."

Drugs found after police raid factory

AROUND 40 cannabis plants were discovered in a drugs raid by police.

Officers stormed the factory, which was set up in a property in Strathmore Avenue, Luton, on Thursday afternoon.

A number of tablets which are thought to be ecstasy, and a small amount of white powder thought to be cocaine, were also recovered.

A man, 46, and a 41-year-old woman were arrested, but have since been bailed and released while further investigations take place.

Brigade considering name change

EXCLUSIVE

THE fire brigade is considering changing its official name – but it is not yet known how much this would cost taxpayers.

A total projected cost has been asked for to find out what effect altering the service's name would have on the need to replace signs, uniforms, logos and websites and even possibly the official crest.

The current brigade title is Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, which was formed in April 1997 following the creation of a separate unitary authority of Luton.

In April 2009 unitary authority Central Bedfordshire was created from the merger of Bedfordshire County Council, Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire. Now councillors on the brigade's watchdog, the Combined Fire Authority, are considering the possibility of changing the name.

A fire service spokesman said: "The combined authority requested a report on the options and implications of changing the name of both or either itself and the service in order to become more reflective of the local government structure of three unitary authorities.

"Members will consider the report and determine the way forward at the next meeting of the authority on February 22."

The move comes after *Luton on Sunday* revealed in December that the service wants to swap shirt colours from red to either white or blue attire to generate an extra £31,000. Nationally there is no standard shirt colour for fire brigades and Bedfordshire is the only one to have red.

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60 hospital crimes have gone unsolved

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@lutononsunday.co.uk

A HOAX bomb threat in which a man claimed to have explosives strapped to his body was just one of the many hospital-related crimes that went unsolved last year.

Figures show that of the 90 crimes reported at Luton & Dunstable Hospital last year, 60 of those did not lead to anyone being charged.

One of those, on February 6 last year, involved a phone call from someone claiming they had been informed there was a bomb at the hospital.

Police made checks and recorded it as a hoax, with the caller believed to have called from a hotel close to the L&D. No arrest was made.

All of those have been 'filed' by Bedfordshire Police which means there has been an investigation but there are no further lines of enquiry.

A number of alleged crimes under the Sexual Offences Act were recorded at the hospital last year charged to healthcare assistant Ameet Mohabeer, 28, who pleaded not guilty to all counts.

He committed suicide last September before his trial having pleaded not guilty to alleged sexual assaults on stroke patients.

Many of the crimes committed at the hospital are public order type offences, assaults and thefts. There were also four cases of racially or religiously aggravated assault or harassment.

A police spokeswoman said: "We take all reports of crime extremely seriously. Each report is dealt with individually and in each case all lines of investigation are pursued.

"However, when there is no forensic evidence, witnesses or other lines of investigation to pursue the report is filed and marked as undetected.

"This does not mean these crimes are forgotten - they remain open, and are reviewed should any new evidence be forthcoming."

An L&D spokesman said:"We provide 24/7 security presence on site which includes regular patrols as well as comprehensive CCTV surveillance."

Men arrested after fight breaks out between group

FOUR men were arrested for affray and possession of offensive weapons after a fight.

They were seen in the Sundon Park Road area of Luton at 10pm on February 4. It is thought they chased each other under the rail-way bridge.

No one was seriously injured.

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High street empty shops woe

LUTON and Dunstable are among those to have the most amount of empty shops in the region, according to new figures.

Dunstable has the highest number of empty retail premises boarded up in the town centre (22.5 per cent), while neighbouring Luton was fourth (17.3 per cent) for stores unoccupied.

Central Bedfordshire Cllr Nigel Young said: "We have ambitious plans in place to release the area's potential including exciting new projects such as the guided busway, the Shared Space project in Court Drive and A5 link road which is crucial to improving the area's accessibility and environment."

A Luton Council spokesman said: "In the period the survey was conducted, all units in The Mall were fully occupied and unit occupancy has not been less than 95 per cent during the recession."

SHUT: Commercial properties for rent in Dunstable

It's hotting up in the fight for Dunstable

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

A PETITION has been launched to try to stop Dunstable becoming part of a Luton constituency.

It was started by Central Bedfordshire councillor Ann Sparrow, in light of proposals to cut the number of parliamentary constituencies in the UK.

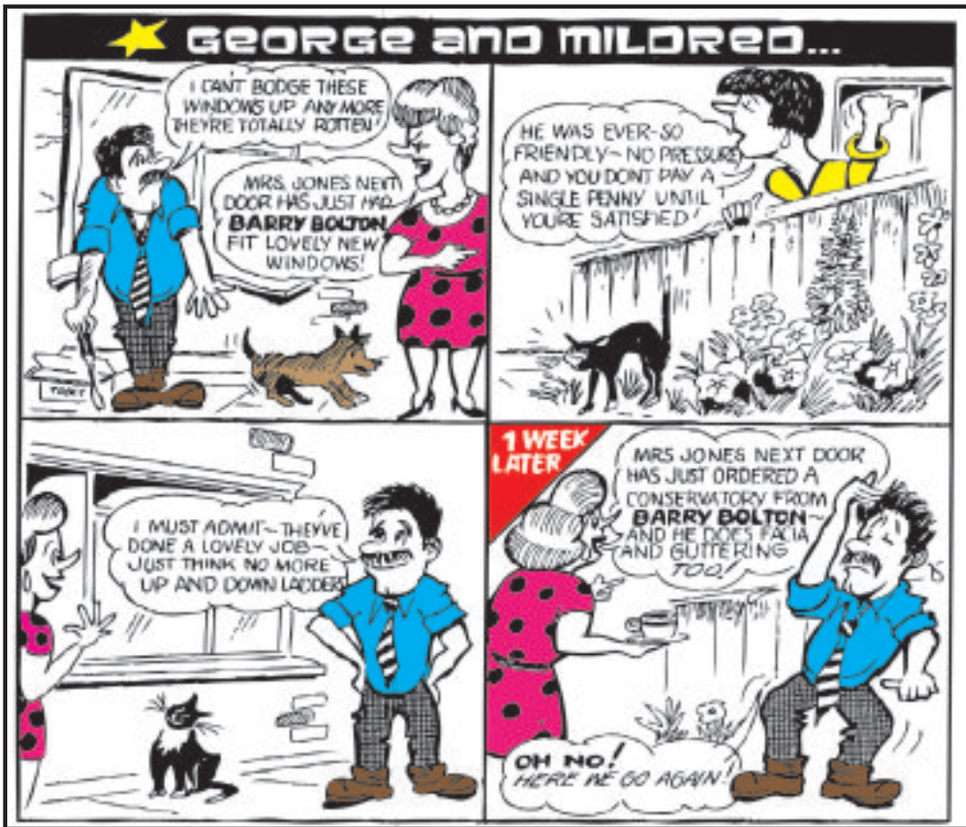
An independent review proposed that Dunstable, whose MP is Tory Andrew Selous, would become part of Luton North, currently represented by Labour's Kelvin Hopkins - but not everyone appears to have embraced the idea.

Conservative Cllr Sparrow, who represents Watling ward, said: "Dunstable is a market town and has affiliations with many of its surrounding villages, while Luton is a large urban area with aspirations to become a city."

A report by Conservative-run Central Beds Council said: 'The cultural lifestyle of Luton is significantly different from that enjoyed by the residents of Dunstable and it is difficult to see where there is any common ground of integrated community involvement, short of supporting the only professional football club within the whole of Bedfordshire which is Luton Town FC.'

Labour Party organiser Francis Steer said: "Both Luton MPs think what the independent Boundary Commission have come up with is sensible. It is natural for Dunstable to be part of Luton North as it is linked with Luton, with the hospital and now the busway."

At present there are 257 signatures on the online petition at http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/26873



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yourletters

Health is no waste

SIR - Surely I cannot be the only Luton resident who profoundly disagrees with the views stated last week by the Stopsley resident on the Inspire Luton Sports Village that is being built just off of Hitchin Road.

I do not believe for a moment that building a state-of-the-art sports centre in Luton can be a waste of money, and the idea that such a centre is not needed is ludicrous.

Are we trying to say that seeking to improve everyone's general health and fitness is not an issue in Luton and in this country generally?

Are we trying to pretend that the obesity epidemic amongst young people does not exist, and does not represent one of the greatest threats to people's general health for generations?

I regularly drive from Hitchin to my home in north Luton.

I have never known it to take three hours to drive from the site of the Sports Village to the bottom of Stockingstone Road – I can usually manage this journey in about 20 minutes in my car, even when the traffic is heavy.

Surely the centre will not tempt that many users from Hitchin and Stevenage, but they will come more from Stopsley as it is right on their doorstep.

I also just cannot see how a sports centre would generate the levels of noise and anti-social behaviour that is alleged.

I then saw John Young's letter on 'Hitting the low incomes'.

The Government has decided to unfairly cut up to £94 a week from cancer patients who they have decided are not recovering quick enough, and drastically reduce employment and support allowance fro disabled people.

What a mean, and spiteful, Coalition Government, led by the Conservatives.

Mick Wright
Gatehill Gardens, Luton

I'm ready to talk, Roger

SIR - I read with amazement your article on the blocks that are to be removed from Downs Road, especially the comment from Councillor Roger Pepworth where he says he will talk to people.

I have written to Cllr Pepworth four times on the subject and I have not received a reply.

In my opinion it was a waste of money blocking off Downs Road as was proved at the meeting.

The only way to stop our estate being used as a 'Rat Run' is to block off Hillside Road.

I live in Sundown Road which is in my opinion not only a 'Rat Run' but a 'Race Track'.

There have been six accidents in my road to my knowledge, four outside my premises, one writing off my wife's car, another demolishing a council lamppost, another ending a few inches from my neighbour's house, and two cars running into the back of each other.

Further down the road, a car overturned and ended up on its roof and another ran out of road and demolished a boundary fence.

If Cllr Pepworth really does want to speak with people and come to a solution may I suggest he starts by answering his emails on the subject?

Peter Cole,
Sundown Avenue, Dunstable

Campaign's just hot air

SIR - Councillor Aslam Khan backed up by HM Revenue & Customs officers, is determined to check that users of Shisha pipes are staying within the law or face punitive fines of £2,500.

In the November issue of Lutonline, Cllr Khan goes to great length to bring to the public's attention the dangers of Shisha pipe smoking.

My interpretation of his 'do you know the facts' in the same edition suggests that you can only risk catching and spreading diseases like tuberculosis, herpes (cold sores) and hepatitis by smoking Shisha pipes.

Always raising concerns about the heath dangers facing young people, the council and Cllr Khan constantly remind us about dangers of smoking and coming into contact with second-hand smoke (passive smoking) but never, never mention anything about the 50,000 people who die every year from air pollution.

Why is there a two-tier approach about informing youngsters the health hazards they face every time they walk outside their homes like just going to school or shopping with their parents?

Why are there no campaigns and posters around Luton telling people about the deadly fumes they breathe in every day?

Could Cllr Khan, the tobacco champion of Luton, please tell me how many people ie babies, youngsters, and teenagers, were admitted to hospital last year with respiratory problems from inhaling toxic fumes?

Young people can be protected from coming into contact with second-hand smoke, but no human being, young or old, can avoid breathing in polluted air.

Second-hand smoke has been referred to as the invisible killer but the visual air pollution from cars, buses, lorries can be seen every day.

There is always a mountain of evidence about smoking but nothing on air pollution. In this year of savage cutbacks, it's refreshing to know a councillor in Luton is determined that smokers obey the law while closing down care homes, and needlessly sacking council workers.

When the smoking ban became law on July 1, 2007, several warnings were aired about increasing tobacco smuggling, but were ignored.

Another local paper and a national newspaper have once again raised the growing concern of illicit tobacco sales worth an estimated £1 billion, which will get worse when tobacco displays are banned from public view making access to illicit cigarettes much easier for youngsters.

Looks like Cllr Khan along with local councillors will have their work cut out for years to come.

Sean Spillane
Luton

Sports village will be a 'superb' facility

SIR - I would like to set the record straight in response to comments made by Ms Wraith in her letter 'Centre not needed, says resident'.

Inspire: Luton Sports Village, is the town's most economic opportunity to replace the dilapidated pool at Wardown and outdated facilities at Luton Regional Sports Centre and Putteridge Recreation Centre. After a thorough investigation, Stopsley was identified as the best location for this development.

We will minimise the loss of green space, by demolishing the old sports centre and returning it to playing fields to provide new football pitches.

There will be better facilities for park users including a new mini pavilion, junior pitches and more changing rooms as well as access to a secure car park, new café and toilet facilities.

The external lighting has been designed to reduce light pollution.

The lights in the car park are designed to stop light escaping upwards and the building is lit by lights at roof level pointing down the building.

These proposals were part of the planning application and were approved as being suitable for the location.

A new junction on the A505 Hitchin Road will provide a safe crossing route for pedestrians and traffic from Cannon Lane and accommodate traffic to the sports village ensuring there is no adverse impact on traffic to The Vale Cemetery and Crematorium.

Arriva has invested over £1.3 million in new buses on the 100, 101, 102, routes connecting the sports village with Luton town centre.

The service operates up to every 20 minutes, starts early and finishes late, with full disabled access, meaning getting to and from Inspire will be easy by bus for everyone.

Ticket deals for families and other promotional fares are to be introduced to make travelling to the sports village inexpensive.

Affordable, value for money, high quality sports and leisure facilities in Luton are essential if we are to help increase participation in physical exercise, sports and active recreation by young people and adult of all ages and help tackle the serious health problems that exist in the town.

Inspire will give Luton a superb swimming and diving training facility plus a sports centre that will enable national competitions to be held here, bringing much needed investment into the town.

Cllr Hazel Simmons (*pictured*)
Leader of Luton Borough Council

letters policy

LETTERS, preferably a maximum of 300 words, must arrive by 3pm on Wednesday. Full name and address must be supplied. Details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Write to: Letters to the Editor, Luton on Sunday, 28 King Street, Luton, LU1 2DP. You can also email your letters to: editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

Top results for our cops

SIR - Well done to Bedfordshire Police.

With a £6.3 million reduction in funding, the leaner Bedfordshire Police have achieved tremendous results.

In a report published by Luton Borough Council, the Bedfordshire Police Authority has shown significant cuts in crime.

With the Force having to deal with cuts to their budget they were awarded the level three 'good' rating by a HMIC Inspection report last year, one of only five police authorities to be assessed so highly.

In particular the report highlighted the 'Authority's mechanisms for challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness'.

The figures showed that overall crime levels were reduced.

In particular the number of burglaries have equated to three fewer incidents everyday compared to the same period last year.

Anti-social behaviour also fell by 12 per cent last year.

The report mentioned the effectiveness of operation vision which aims to reduce anti-social behaviour as a key reason for the fall in incidents.

The report also highlighted the increased functionality of reporting anti-social behaviour: 'To make it easier to report anti-social behaviour the Force launched a new single non-emergency number (101) in September which has been well received by the public'.

With such impressive figures it shows that if every authority in the country could use their ingenuity as much as Bedfordshire then they can still make the cuts without affecting front-line services.

With further cuts to come it will be imperative for the Force to continue their momentum into the new year.

It was disappointing that the Labour-run Council had no praise for Bedfordshire Police Force at the recent council meeting.

John Young
Chairman of Luton Conservative Association

Drivers just need to think

SIR - As an old Caddington boy I feel I must reply to Eila Goss.

I use this road at least twice a week and the right angle bend in Dunstable Road is completely safe as it is.

The ditch and the hedge prevent anybody getting seriously hurt as opposed to a barrier as has been suggested.

All it needs is a little brain to tell drivers to slow down and not watch too much Jeremy Clarkson.

Dave Fleckney
Jillifer Road, Luton

Four hour blackout as cold weather hits

AS temperatures dropped below freezing, more than 1,600 residents were left without power for up to four hours.

Electricity supplies were interrupted for households in Barton Hills, Luton, on Tuesday between 7pm and 7.50pm following a fault on a high voltage underground cable.

The last residents had their power restored at 11pm.

A spokesman for UK Power Networks said: "Power supplies were restored to 1,647 customers in the Barton Hills area on Tuesday. We would like to reassure our customers that we worked as quickly as possible throughout the evening to restore all supplies to normal.

"We realise how difficult it can be to be without power, particularly during the cold weather, and apologise for any inconvenience."

Nine face charges over immigration

NINE people are charged with conspiracy to facilitate a breach of the UK's immigration laws relating to alleged sham marriages.

Six of them, from Luton, appeared at Luton Magistrates' Court on Thursday before being bailed.

They were Kamila Drozdowska, 28, of Bute Street, Tera Miah, 58, of Hitchin Road, Mariusz Rohde, 28, of Hitchin Road, Dorota Wysocka, 45, of Studley Road, Aneta Szczepanik, 35, of Kingsland Road, and Katarzyna Potrykus, 40, of Cowper Road. On February 2, Mohammed Dolon Miah, 35, of Spencer Road, Luton, and Mohammed Razul Miah, 35, of Leighton Buzzard, were also charged with conspiracy to withhold criminal property. They were remanded into custody.

Gyash Uddin, 39, of Ivy Road, Luton, was also charged with conspiracy to withhold criminal property and fraud offences.

All will appear at Luton Crown Court on April 23.

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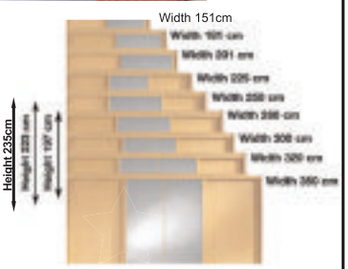

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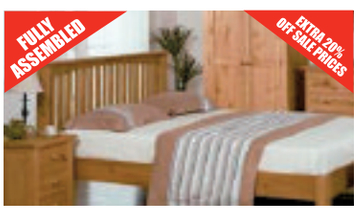

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Kids today judge books on how interesting they are

THIS week we have celebrated the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens. And, in typically British way, we do so with a row.

The culture secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has said that all children ought to have read one Dickens book by the age of 11 years old.

One of Dickens' biographers, Claire Tomalin, said this would not be possible as children do not have the attention span to read Dickens, tainted as they are by rubbish TV. They are both wrong.

One of the most dispiriting parts of studying literature is the didactic way we are told what to read.(The other is the way it is often taught - nothing like studying English Literature to put you off reading for life)

I was 14 before discovering that there were talents beyond Dickens and Shakespeare.

It is like studying classical music but only being allowed to hear Henry Purcell and Benjamin Britten.

There is a strange belief, that also includes the study of history, that somehow learning about overseas writers and cultures will taint the English soul.

The opposite is more likely to be the truth. It cannot even be the literature of the British Isles, so the likes of James Joyce and Samuel Beckett are banned. They were not English, so cannot feature in the study of English Literature.

Interestingly, this made Joyce and Beckett far more exciting than Shakespeare. As well as some way-out American authors such as Henry Miller and Ken Kesey.

They actually swore in books, and wrote about sex, which for teenage boys was as good as it got.

The worst effect, of course, is that many children come to intensely dislike what they are supposed to be enjoying.

But Claire Tomalin is also wrong. Children's attention span has not been diluted by TV, however rubbish a lot of it is.

Nor by iPods, laptops, Facebook, Twitter or anything else that heads towards them from cyber space. Children still enjoy reading, though not necessarily Dickens. Even though it may well still be appropriate and relevant, some kids may not need to read it, as they are living it, it is written in a style and of a time that could prove difficult to follow.

Indeed we watched Great Expectations over Christmas and my youngest wondered why Pip did not phone for help when scragged by Magwitch in the graveyard. He'd obviously left his mobile at home.

Speaking of our kids, they had no trouble reading the Harry Potter books, which in length and complexity, if not social importance, are as great as many a Victorian novel.

The older ones have read novels such as The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-Time and Catcher in the Rye, both of which deal with social and mental health issues, as well as the Life of Pi.

It is not how long they are, or even how difficult but whether they are interesting to today's youth.

And as for rubbish TV, does not the Government own one of the major channels?

Indeed we watched Great Expectations over Christmas and my youngest wondered why Pip did not phone for help when scragged by Magwitch in the graveyard. He'd obviously left his mobile at home.

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2010 National Winner (Learndirect Awards)

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Council agree rise in cemetery plot costs

BY LUI STRACCIA
lui.straccia@lutononsunday.co.uk

CEMETERY charges will rocket by a whopping ten per cent - although the council says the fees are 'still not unreasonable'.

The proposals for Dunstable Cemetery mean a grave will rise £25 from £250 to £275 for adults, and by £12 from £115 to £127 for children.

The increases were rubber-stamped at a Dunstable Town Council meeting on Monday.

Walled graves and vaults will cost £528 – £48 more than they currently do – while the cost of burying 12 to 16 year olds will increase by £11 from £109 to £120.

For those over the age of 100, the fee will be £6 higher than the current £60.

There will be no charges for bodies of stillborn children and under-12s.

Cremated remains, which can at present be buried in a grave for £82, would be charged at £91, while burying cremated remains in the Garden of Remembrance will cost £55 – £5 more than the present fee.

Town clerk David Ashlee said: "The increase in prices is nothing to do with the cemetery extension. It's just part of cemetery management.

"It's a complex thing. It's not a universal service - it is not used by everyone.

"For many years it's been good value for money. The charges were very low. The charges are still not unreasonable."

GRAVE ISSUE: Dunstable Cemetery

Man charged with double stabbing attack

POLICE have charged a 23-year-old man in connection with an incident which saw a father and son stabbed in their family home.

Abdullah Ashir Ali, of Great Amwell Lane, London, has been charged with GBH, aggrevated burglary and false imprisonment, following an incident in Dumfries Street, Luton, on January 31.

Mr Ali has been remanded in custody and appeared at Luton Magistrates' Court on Thursday.

Officers are still keen to trace anyone with further information.

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Young homeless to

MARY Seacole Housing Association, which was set up to help combat homelessness, was last week awarded five years' worth of funding from the National Lottery, totalling almost £300,000. LAUREN ARCHELL looks at how the money will be used to benefit young people.

The Mary Seacole Housing Association premises in Brantwood Road, Luton

PUTTING homeless young people back on their feet is the aim of the Mary Seacole Housing Association Limited.

Now the Luton-based charity will be able to invest more in its young clients thanks to lottery funding.

The Association, in Brantwood Road, was initially founded by Clere destine Stewart in 1986.

With six properties in Luton, the charity helps mainly 16 to 25 year olds by giving them a place to live while they wait to find somewhere for themselves.

Their aim is to support the clients by providing three staging posts towards independent living.

When young people first go to Mary Seacole, they receive 24 hour, high level support from staff who provide advice on cooking, personal hygiene, personal interaction and health.

They then move on to more independent living before the final stage when they live almost totally independently, with a view to moving into private sector accommodation.

After putting in a detailed bid for the funding last year, Mary Seacole has been awarded funding from the National Lottery to the tune of £295,945.

Mary Seacole's chief executive Audrey Lewis said: "We are absolutely delighted that we are going to receive this funding.

"The lottery money will secure the future of this programme for the next five years, and enable us to give young people the skills and confidence they need to plan their own futures in a positive and constructive way.

"With both the academic training and opportunities to improve social skills, we hope we will be able to provide a well-rounded scheme to our clients.

"It's so important that we invest in our young people as they represent all our futures. There are so many reasons why people come to us and each one of them can benefit from the commitment and support we can offer here.

"Every day, we see the difference that engaging with us makes to young lives."

Audrey also added that in times

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Sea Food Tuna, Prawns & Sweetcorn	£8.00	£10.00	£14.00
Beefeater Spicy Beef, Onions & Mushrooms	£8.10	£10.40	£14.50
Chicken Supreme Chicken Tikka with mushrooms, Green Peppers & Sweetcorn	£8.60	£10.90	£14.80
Vegetarian Green peppers, Mushrooms, Onions, Fresh Tomatoes, Sweetcorn & Jalapeno peppers	£8.40	£10.60	£14.60
Pepperoni Feast Double pepperoni, Mushrooms & Onions	£8.40	£10.60	£14.60
Meat Feast Spicy beef, Ham, Pepperoni, Chicken Tikka	£8.60	£10.90	£14.90
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benefit from charity's £300k lottery 'win'

of economic downturn, the lottery funding had come at a crucial time. She said: "Like many other charities, we are having funding cut left, right and centre. In the last year we've lost around £80,000, so this funding means that we can continue doing this key work."

The money will be used to deliver a 'Positive Futures' programme for its clients, young people aged between 16 and 30.

Starting in April, the scheme will provide both accredited and non-accredited training courses, such as literacy, numeracy and IT which will aid young people to develop employability skills.

'Positive Futures' will also provide the opportunity for young people to improve the social and life skills they need to embark on independent living, covering areas such as sexual health, alcohol awareness and healthy eating.

With support from training staff and support workers, it is hoped clients will progress to taking responsibility for their own development, creating a personal learning plan and working with a resettlement worker towards moving into independent accommodation.

To celebrate being awarded the funding for the 'Positive Futures' project, Mary Seacole will be holding an Open Day on Friday, February 24 from 1pm-4pm.

The newly kitted-out computer suite at the Mary Seacole Housing Association

The aim of the event is to allow both stakeholders and the general public the chance to find out more about the charity, and take a tour around the client accommodation and training facilities.

Residents of the housing association will give presentations about their experiences of the charity, which will be followed by a light buffet.

Chief executive Audrey Lewis

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Information Evening

Anytime between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd February 2012 Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, SG17 5TQ

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£4.6m in resident debt not collected

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

CENTRAL Bedfordshire Council failed to collect almost £4.6 million in taxes in the last financial year.

Figures released by the GMB Union show that between 2010 and 2011, the authority came third in the region for the highest amount of outstanding council tax, which totalled £3.3m, and non-domestic rates, which totalled more than £1.2m at the end of the financial year last April.

Luton Borough Council topped the 47-strong league, with more than £6.3m in uncollected taxes.

Three weeks ago *Luton on Sunday* reported that in the last financial year, Luton Borough Council has issued almost 13,000 summons to people who have failed to pay council tax.

PAYMENT: Councillor Maurice Jones

Our report also revealed that since 1993, householders in Luton have failed to pay a total of £17.3 million in council tax, and many have moved away still owing the debt.

Councillor Maurice Jones of Central Bedfordshire Council said: "The GMB figures are misleading.

"Collection rates for council tax are constantly changing and are just a snapshot in time - generally we collect 97.6 per cent of council tax in the current year.

"We pursue debts vigorously and collect the majority of any debts outstanding at the year end in the following year.

"While we will help anyone struggling to pay their bills, Central Bedfordshire Council clamps down hard on anyone who avoids council tax."

Lead flashing stripped from primary school's roof

SHEETS of metal were stolen from a primary school roof.

Lead flashing, which is used to prevent water getting into buildings, was taken from classrooms at Hawthorn Park Lower School in Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis, between 6pm on January 23 and 7am on January 24.

Central Bedfordshire Council this week joined Bedfordshire Police in an operation to crack-down on the trade in stolen metal.

Anyone with information is asked to call Bedfordshire Police on 101.

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Advertisement Feature

Mother's Day

18th March

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Detectives hunt for bike thieves

POLICE are appealing for information after a bicycle was stolen from Leagrave train station

Investigators have also released CCTV images of two men (*pictured right*) they would like to identify and talk to in connection with the incident on January 25 between 7.30am and 7pm.

Anyone who can name any of the men in the CCTV images should contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 quoting reference B7/LNA of February 2, 2012.

Tax man jailed for £70m luxury con

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@lutononsunday.co.uk

A PROFESSIONAL tax adviser has been jailed for trying to defraud honest taxpayers of £70 million.

He spent his cut of the stolen cash on expensive second homes, exotic holidays, works of art and luxury cars and was on Monday sentenced to 18 months in jail.

David Perrin, 46, of Leagrave, Luton, and deputy managing director at Vantis Tax Ltd, was convicted of cheating the revenue last month.

Blackfriars Crown Court was told how he devised and operated a tax avoidance scheme which he sold to wealthy taxpayers in order to exploit the law on giving shares to charity, allowing him to pocket more than £2m in fees from their unsuspecting clients. Perrin used a network of finance professionals to advise more than 600 wealthy clients to buy shares, worth a few pence each, in four new companies he had set up.

He then listed the companies on the Channel Islands Stock Exchange and paid people money from an offshore account to buy and sell the shares simply to inflate their price.

The share owners then donated 329 million shares to various unsuspecting registered charities and tried to claim £70m tax relief on a total of £213m of income and company profits.

This was based on the shares being worth up to £1 each, rather than the pennies they were originally bought for. Perrin also used the bogus scheme to claim money back.

The scheme proved so popular that Vantis employees performed a smug celebratory song at their annual conference, to the tune of 'I will survive'.

It included the verse: 'They should have changed that stupid law, they should have buggered charity, but they have left that lovely tax relief, for folks to pay to me.'

Jim Graham, HMRC Criminal Investigator, said: "With his knowledge of the tax system, Perrin thought that he was one step ahead of both HMRC and the law. This cynical fraud not only stole millions of pounds from taxpayers, but also conned innocent charities into accepting gifts of virtually worthless shares, just so Perrin could inflate his own criminal earnings."

Confiscation proceedings are under way.

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Hertfordshire

Decision time for 'vital' sport centre

BY LUI STRACCIA
lui.straccia@lutononsunday.co.uk

THE future of a leisure centre will be decided this week.

Central Bedfordshire Council will make a choice on Tuesday whether to award the contract to someone to run the centre as of April.

Last September the swimming pool at the centre was closed to save £75,000 towards its overall target of £20 million for the year.

The council is seeking a new contract for the centre which will be put out to tender for the facilities including the sports hall gym and squash courts.

Houghton Regis Leisure Centre Action Group was formed to fight the proposed closure of the centre.

Group spokeswoman Kay Hudgell said: "We were able last July to get them to listen to us, this was following a public meeting where over 400 people showed up to voice the objections.

"They agreed to put the management of the centre out to tender and agreed to train two of our group and two town councillors in the procurement process to work alongside the council. This has now all been completed.

"This leisure centre is vital to the community of Houghton Regis and the surrounding area and many have suffered through the closure of the swimming pool.

"We were unable to save this and it closed.

"However the council has kept it in 'mothballs' so that the structure would not be harmed through the draining of the pool and we hope that the re-opening of the pool will be part of the new management's bid."

Cllr Brian Spurr said: "We are acutely aware of the importance of the leisure centre to local residents. The proposals reflect our commitment to retain facilities at the centre to March 2013 while we develop our future plans through our long-term Leisure Strategy for the area.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank community representatives who gave up their time to be involved in the tendering exercise."

Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Boy found with head injuries

A 15-YEAR-OLD student was found in the street with head injuries.

He was discovered in Fermor Crescent, Luton, at 6.30pm on Monday and taken to hospital.

It is not yet clear how he was injured.

Anyone with information is urged to contact DC Gemma Widdowfield, in confidence, on 01582 473318.

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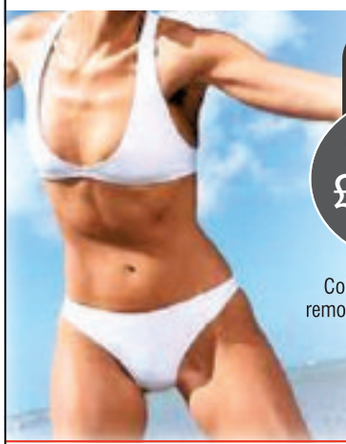
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Location	Venue	Date & Time
Luton Town Centre	The Gateway Gallery, The Hat Factory, Bute Street, LU1 2EY	Mon 13 Feb 2PM-8PM
Flamstead	Flamstead Village Hall Church Road, AL3 8BN	Tues 14 Feb 2PM-8PM
Whitwell	Whitwell New Fellowship Hall Bendish Lane, SG4 8HT	Wed 15 Feb 2PM-8PM
Hitchin	Hitchin Town Hall Brand Street, SG5 1HX	Fri 17 Feb 2PM-8PM
Caddington	Heathfield Lower School The Green, LU1 4HF	Sat 18 Feb 10AM-5PM
Leighton Buzzard and Linslade	Linslade Community Hall Waterloo Road, LU7 2NR	Wed 22 Feb 2PM-8PM

Location	Venue	Date & Time
Dunstable	Dunstable Leisure Centre Court Drive, LU5 4JD	Thurs 23 Feb 2PM-8PM
Harpenden	Southdown Room, Harpenden Public Halls, Southdown Road, AL5 1PD	Sat 25 Feb 10AM-5PM
Stevenage	Ellen Terry Room, 2nd Floor, Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, SG1 1LZ	Mon 27 Feb 2PM-8PM
Luton South	Stockwood Discovery Centre London Road, LU1 7HA	Wed 29 Feb 2PM-8PM
Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead Memorial Hall Marford Road, AL4 8AY	Thurs 1 Mar 2PM-8PM
Breachwood Green	Breachwood Green Village Hall Chapel Road, SG4 8NX	Mon 5 Mar 2PM-8PM
Luton East	Raynham Way Community Centre 66 Eaton Green Road, LU2 9JE	Thurs 8 Mar 1.30PM-7PM

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Wigmore — **Price £265,000**

Large extended family home in the popular Wigmore development which offers a large lounge and dining room along with an office, cloakroom and fantastic fitted kitchen, four well proportioned bedrooms master with an en - suite shower and family bathroom.

MUST BE VIEWED

Priory — **Price £186,995**

Well presented, extended semi-detached property. With a bright and airy kitchen/breakfast room, separate lounge and dining rooms plus a cloakroom to the ground floor. To the first floor, is a modern refitted bathroom, two double bedrooms and a further single room. A garage is located in the lengthy rear garden.

Wigmore — **Price £152,995**

You need to be quick if you wish to view this modern two bed house located in this quiet cul de sac on the ever popular Wigmore development.

Round Green — **Price £175,000**

Well presented two bed bungalow with good sized garden in this popular part of town. Conveniently located for local shopping facilities in Round Green and the town centre is located within approximately two miles. The bungalow has the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

Chalton — **Price £239,995**

A THREE bed semi detached bungalow, located in the village of Chalton and offered with NO UPPER CHAIN. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, dining room, sun room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. Outside there is a large rear garden, garage and driveway.

Houghton Regis — **Price £199,995**

Detached three bedroom family home situated in a cul-de-sac location backing onto green belt land. A lounge/diner, kitchen and cloakroom to the ground floor, three bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom to the first floor. Garage, driveway and small front garden, with a large summerhouse/ shed in the rear garden.

Chalton — **Price £399,995**

A modern four bed detached home, situated in a quiet cul de sac in the village of Chalton which has been maintained to the highest standards by its current owners and has planning for a loft conversion

INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

South West — **Price £82,000**

GROUND FLOOR ONE BED APARTMENT IN THIS POPULAR LOCATION OFFERED WITH NO UPPER CHAIN AND NEEDING NO WORK

Toddington — **Price £210,000**

Located in the heart of Toddington, this two bed bungalow has the added benefit of being on a corner plot and has the potential to be extended (subject to planning)

Westoning — **Price £99,995**

A ground floor one bed apartment with parking, located in the village of Westoning, which is a short drive away from Harlington train station and Junction 12 of the M1.

Toddington — **Price £249,995**

Located just a short walk from the Village shops, this Double fronted Four bedroom home dates back to 1561 and was formally the "Hare and Hounds " Public House

NEW INSTRUCTION

Toddington — **Price £225,000**

A lovely family home, located in the village of Toddington, which has been modernised and improved by its current owners. Outside there is a mature rear garden with driveway to the front providing off road parking leading to the garage.

L + D Borders — **Price £144,995**

Three bedroom end of terrace property with off road parking situated in a cul-de-sac, offered with no upper chain. Accommodation consisting of open plan lounge/diner, fitted modern kitchen and a cloakroom to the ground floor. Three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. A viewing will be essential to fully appreciate the benefits on offer.

South Luton — **Price £114,950**

Ground floor two bedroom maisonette situated in the popular South Luton area. The property comprises of a Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms and Bathroom which benefits from being within walking distance to both Luton town centre and Luton mainline station.

Priory — **Price £164,995**

Three storey three bedroom house in excellent condition throughout. With parking to the rear and offered with no upper chain.

Toddington — **Price £320,000**

A four bedroom townhouse with two en suite's, living room, fitted kitchen/ dining and garage, located in Toddington.

South Luton — **Price £144,950**

You will need to be quick if you wish to buy this terraced house in south Luton. The house benefits from a lounge, dining area and large kitchen to the ground floor with three well proportioned bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor.

Bramingham — **Price £229,995**

Take a look at this spacious extended four bed spread over three floors. Featuring a dual aspect lounge and large fitted kitchen/ diner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Household Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £137,500 for 67 Cranbrook Drive Luton, LU3 3EN. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Household Estate Agents, 17 Wellington Street, Luton, LU1 2QH, 01582 487487, before exchange of contracts.

Houghton Regis — **Price £164,995**

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TODDINGTON	2-4 High Street, Toddington. LU5 6BY	toddington@house-hold.co.uk	**01525 877771**

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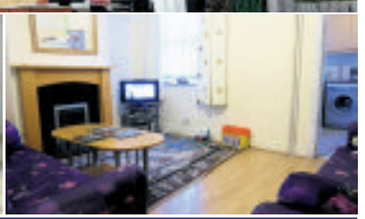

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TO LET NO DEPOSIT

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TO LET NO DEPOSIT

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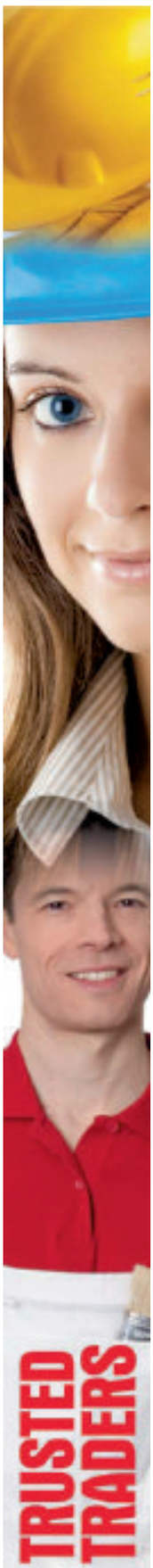

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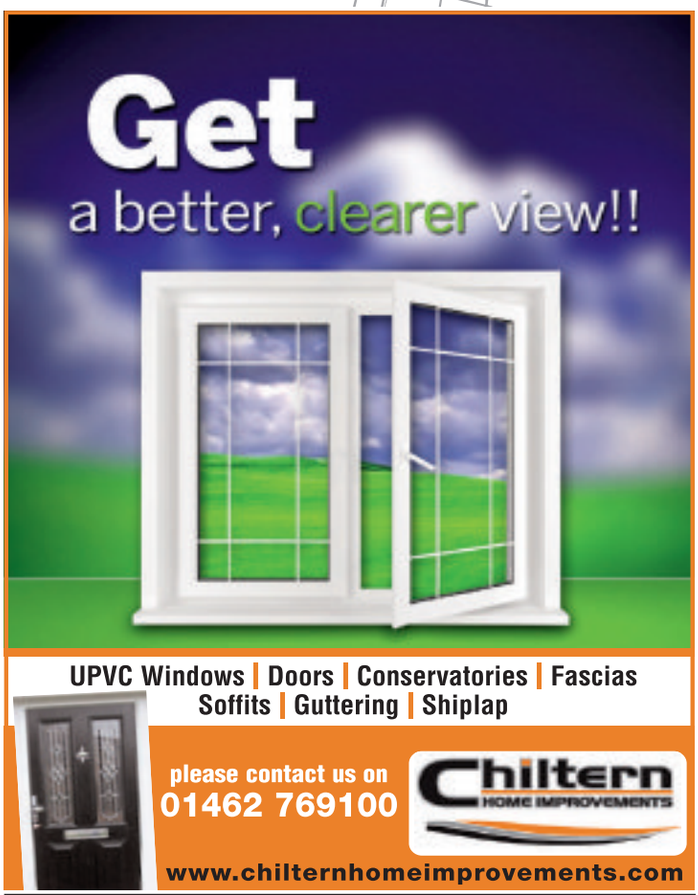

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announcements

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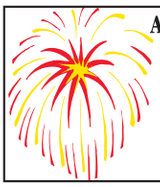

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Deaths

Suddenly on 31st January Bridget Hannah McDonnell of Handcross Road aged 58 years. Much loved wife of John and mother of Laurence - She will be sadly missed. Funeral on Thursday 16th February at Sacred Heart RC Church, Stopsley for 11am, followed by interment at The Vale Cemetery. Mrs McDonnell will be received into church on Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm. Family flowers only, But donations, if desired to 'The Child Brain Injury Trust' C/O John Saunders and Son, 48 Duke Street, Luton.Tel 731696

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HAWAIIAN Ham, pineapple & mushrooms	5.90	10.00	14.00
SEAFOOD Tuna, prawns & sweetcorn	5.90	10.00	14.00
BEEFEATER Spicy beef, onions & mushrooms	6.10	10.40	14.50
CHICKEN SUPREME Chicken tikka with mushrooms, green peppers & sweetcorn	5.90	10.00	14.00
VEGETARIAN Green peppers, mushrooms, onions, fresh tomatoes, sweetcorn & jalapeno peppers	5.40	10.00	14.00
PEPPERONI FEAST Double pepperoni, mushrooms & onions	5.90	10.00	14.00
MEAT FEAST Spicy beef, ham, pepperoni & chicken tikka	5.90	10.00	14.00
MEXICAN HOT Double spicy beef, onions, red beans, green peppers, green chillies, chilli powder & jalapeno peppers	6.20	11.10	14.90
PIZZA DIRECT Pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers, onions, sweetcorn, hot & spicy beef	6.80	11.00	15.50
SPECIAL Pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers, onions, sweetcorn, hot & spicy beef	6.80	11.00	15.50
PERI PERI PIZZA Peri peri chicken, green peppers, mushrooms & pineapple	5.90	12.00	16.00
CREATE YOUR OWN	5.90	12.00	16.00
EXTRA TOPPINGS	0.75	0.85	0.95

PERI PERI GRILL CHICKEN

A. CHICKEN BREAST BURGER	£2.99
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C. PERI PERI WRAP	£2.99
D. 6 PERI WINGS	£2.99
E. 5 PERI STRIPS	£2.99
F. 1/4 CHICKEN	£2.99
G. 1/2 CHICKEN	£3.99
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4 PIECES CHICKEN & FRIES		£4.90
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12 PIECE CHICKEN & 4 FRIES		£14.49

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Peppa Pig and friends go searching for treasure

onpage48

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leisurenow

A night of music and humour performed by acapella group

MUSIC

STRAIGHT NO CHASER
The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage
Friday, 7.30pm

ORIGINALLY formed more than a dozen years ago while students together at Indiana University, the group Straight No Chaser has reassembled and re-emerged as a phenomenon.

With a massive fanbase, more than 20 million views on YouTube, numerous national TV appearances, and proven success with two holiday releases, the acapella singing group will now bring their music to the UK and Stevenage.

In an era when so much pop music is the product of digital processing and vocal pro-tooling, Straight No Chaser is the real deal – the captivating sound of ten unadulterated human voices coming together to make extraordinary music that is moving people in a fundamental sense . . . and with a sense of humour.

Tickets cost £20 and can be booked online at www.gordon-craig.co.uk or by calling 01438 894902.

Fairport on their anniversary tour

MUSIC

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
The Alban Arena, St Albans
Tuesday 7.30pm

HAILED as the originators of British folk-rock music, Fairport Convention are celebrating their 45th anniversary at The Alban Arena.

This year's Winter Tour will feature songs from Fairport's most recent studio album, the critically acclaimed Festival Bell.

But the band has a vast repertoire to draw on and this concert will include favourites chosen by audiences as well as new material, and an opening set from gifted singer-songwriter Kieron Goss.

Featuring Simon Nicol on guitar and lead vocals, Dave Pegg on bass and backing vocals, Chris Leslie on fiddle, mandolin, bouzouki and lead vocals, Ric Sanders on violin and Gerry Conway on drums and percussion, Fairport Convention have established themselves as one of the most entertaining on the live music scene.

Whether you are a long-time fan or a newcomer to their music an evening with Fairport Convention will surprise and delight you.

Tickets cost £19.50 and can be booked online at www.alban-arena.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01727 844488.

To advertise in these leisure pages call 01582 700800 or email advertising@lutononsunday.co.uk

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Can The Muppets save the theatre?

FILM

THE MUPPETS
The Grove Theatre, Dunstable
Today - Saturday, February 25, at various times

GARY (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams) discover the plan of oilman Tex Richman to demolish the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil.

To stage The Greatest Muppet Telethon Ever and raise the $10 million needed to save the theater, Mary and Gary help Kermit reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways.

To check times of the showings, visit www.grove-theatre.co.uk

Tickets cost £6 and can be booked by calling the box office 01582 602080.

Ann wins book and specs prize

COMPETITION WINNER

MANY of you entered our competition to win our fantastic Specsavers and TV Book Club prize, but there could only be one winner.

Ann Lenoir, of Dunstable, is the lucky recipient of £150 worth of eyecare vouchers as well as a set of ten books. Congratulations to Ann.

Join Peppa's search

CHILDREN

PEPPA PIG'S TREASURE HUNT
The Grove Theatre, Dunstable
Saturday, 1pm & 4pm and Sunday, 10am & 1pm

HER first stage tour, Peppa Pig's Party, was one of the top-selling children's theatre shows in 2010 and 2011.

Now hot on its heels comes a second stage production, Peppa Pig's Treasure Hunt. In this new show Peppa Pig and her friends set off on a treasure hunt.

Peppa, her brother George and friend Danny Dog get up to fun and games on a day out on Grandad Dog's boat.

There are clues aplenty as Pedro Pony, Polly Parrot and Zoe Zebra help them find their treasure as they all enjoy a day of adventure.

Peppa Pig's Treasure Hunt features true-to-life puppets, perfect sing-along songs and a new story that will charm and delight all her fans. Full sail! Ahoy!

Tickets cost £14.50 for adults and £12.50 for children, although a family ticket for two adults and two children can be bought for £50.

Don't miss out and book your ticket now either online at www.grove-theatre.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01582 602080.

Tom will share his memories

TEA PARTY

SENSORY MATERIALS
The Hat Factory, Luton
Saturday, 3-6pm

TOM Marshman will be leading an afternoon session for local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people of all ages, in The Kitchen at The Hat Factory.

Described as 'the memory man', he wants to welcome you to his tea party, with a suitcase of memories, his and yours.

Tom is asking people to dig into their personal archive and show materials that evoke potent memories for them.

So, this might be the space to share the scent of an aftershave that stirs memories, the song that takes you back to that night or the film that you hold close to your chest.

Tom is a performance artist who transforms everyday accounts into theatre by weaving together stories well worth telling.

Having previously shown his highly acclaimed show Move Over Darling in Bristol he is now collecting stories from other cities.

Tickets cost £6 with tea and cake included in the price, and can be booked by calling the box office on 01582 878100.

www.luton-dunstable.co.uk
for your news and sport updates

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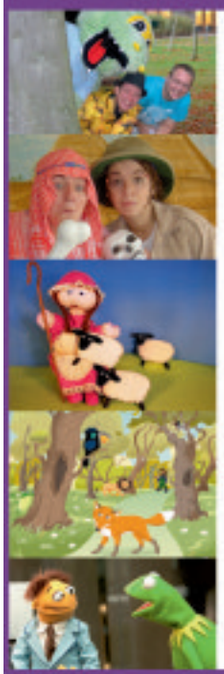
Luton Library Theatre



Dexter & Darren in Jezo Loses his Magic
Theatre, Tues 14 & Weds 15 Feb, 2pm

Search for the Lost Tomb
Theatre, Fri 17 Feb, 11am

Little Bo Peep
Theatre, Sat 3 Mar, 11am

Forest of Fables
Theatre, Sat 31 Mar, 11am

Teddy's Sports Day
Theatre, Thurs 5 Apr, 11am

The Muppets (U)
Film, Weds 11 Apr, 11am & 2.30pm

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
Theatre, Fri 13 Apr, 2.30pm

Saville Magic
Theatre, Sat 28 Apr, 11am

The Frog Prince
Theatre, Sat 12 May, 11am

Greek Odyssey
Theatre, Thurs 7 Jun, 11am

Contact us to request your free brochure and book today for the best ticket in town.

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*When buying before 14-02-2012, a £1.00 transaction fee applies: £7.00 seniors (over 60+yrs), £8.00 adults, kids (under 16yrs) go free when accompanied by a paying adult. Free parking is subject to availability. A show guide is included. On-the-door prices: £9.00 senior (over 60+yrs) £10.00 adult, kids (under 16yrs) go free when accompanied by a paying adult.

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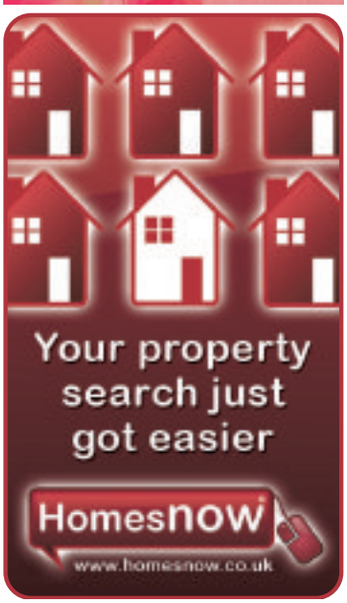

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ADVERTORIAL

CTP is Leading the Way in Training for your community

Located in one of the main hearts of the community, Community Training Portal (CTP) is one of the few places to learn outside of the Town Centre.

The 2 Luton Centres - Biscot Road and Leagrave Road - have been there for over 8 years, and were some of the first centres to open across the country.

The Managing Director, Mr Sulcan Mahmood is on the Board of Directors, and since the launch in Luton CTP have been busy opening centres across the country, including Lancashire, Mersyside and Hertfordshire.

Some of the great points about being outside the Town Centre and in such a convenient environment are quite easy to see as soon as you step into the Leagrave Road centre. There is plenty of free parking around, and after speaking to them, they also have plans to expand - something that is going to take place in the very near future, and allow the centre to offer an even broader range of courses.

CTP aren't just about learning - they are a massive part of the community, and try to show this as much as possible. All their tutors are local people, and represent the local community. They also sponsor two cricket teams and one childrens football team. They have also helped to set up a Nursery in Gambia. In addition to this, they are constantly moving forward on their Job Clubs - which take place every Wednesday, and anyone that needs a bit of support is welcome to come along. The classes include assistance on CV writing, applying for jobs online, interview techniques and employability courses.

One of the most important things about the CTP - is that nobody leaves without a qualification. So those taking part really have achieved something fantastic and can see the purpose to it all! The standard of teaching has been rewarded this year, as the Leagrave Road Centre in Luton was awarded the best Learn Direct Centre in the Region! The centre also managed to scoop up the Best Tutor award (Lobia Begum), although this hasn't come completely out of the blue. The centre has been gaining Highly Commended awards for a number of years now, so there's no doubt that this level of teaching and commitment is up to an unbelievable standard.

Moving forward CTP are keen to improve an already excellent service with their Job Clubs - and are working with recruitment agencies and the Job Centre to really kickstart the efforts of those people that come to them. They are launching apprenticeships, and looking to open one of the first CTP Overseas Centres here in Luton as well.

Courses already on offer in the Luton centres are:

- Maths
- IT
- English
- Flash
- Dreamweaver
- NVQ in Customer Service
- Interview techniques and CV Writing

This list is only going to get longer and if this is something that you would like to be involved with - or just learn more about the fantastic courses that are available, then join them during Go Online Week 30th October - 6th November, where you can learn for free and see what they have to offer!

Contact the Team at:
Community Training Portal
378 Leagrave Road, Luton, LU2 1RG.
01582 565938
2 Biscot Road, Luton LU3 1AT.
01582 704121

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Harlington Upper School
Harlington, Beds

Harlington is a highly successful upper school and Specialist Science College with over 1,440 students. Standards are very high; in 2011 86% of GCSE students gained 5+ A*-C, 76% of GCSE students gained 5+ A*-C including English and Mathematics.

Student Support Assistant
Salary NJC Level 3D
(£17,161 - £19,126 pro rata)

The purpose of this post is to provide welfare support for individual students and help them to manage their own behaviour. This is an important role in the school, helping young people to maximise their own potential and supporting the school community as a whole.

Required for September 2012

Teacher of English
Teacher of Maths
Teacher of Science
Teacher of PE

An application form and further details are also available by post, please telephone 01525 755100 or email: enquiries@harlington.org

Closing date: 12 noon on Wednesday 29 February 2012

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment. A CRB disclosure is required for this post.

Your online Learning Zone
Visit your online guide to Training & Education in Bedfordshire
www.bedfordshire-news.co.uk/training-and-education

AIRPORT JOBS

BAGGAGE HANDLERS
£6.13 per hour rising to £7.50
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20 hours a week (5 x 4 hr shifts) + opportunity to make full time hours / overtime
You must have a full UK / EU Licence as you will be required to drive vehicles and equipment

PASSENGER SERVICES AGENTS
£6.13 per hour rising to £6.70 + shift premiums
Strong customer service skills required
Must be available to work: 04:00-08:00, 05:00-09:00, 14:00-18:00, 18:00-22:00 4 on 2 off, (20 hours a week + overtime). 2 weeks training & uniform provided. Long term position

Also recruiting for many other positions including Flight dispatchers and aircraft cleaners (nights)

For more information & to apply online visit
www.av-s.co.uk

All job offer's are subject to completion of training, full 5 year reference history & criminal checks

AVS

Luton Women's Aid has 2 x vacancies

Children's Worker – 16 hrs per week

Senior Children's Worker – 30 hrs per week

Full driving licence and use of car in working hours is essential.

Successful applicants will be required to a have a satisfactory enhanced disclosure through the Criminal Records Bureau.

Due to the sensitive nature if this role we will be considering female applicants only for this post in accordance with the provisions of the Occupational Requirement (Equality Act 2010, pursuant to schedule 9 part 1)

For an application pack email: jane@lutonwa.com

www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

Customer Services Advisors

£15,039 - £16,054 per annum pro rata

Post A - Mon, Wed, Fri, 11.30am - 5.30pm (no lunch)
18 hours - predominately working in the call centre

Post B - Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 10.00am - 2.30pm (no lunch)
18 hours - predominately working in the service centre

You will deliver accessible, quality services to all customers by placing them at the heart of the Council's activity. You will provide first contact resolutions to customer enquiries via all access channels, maintaining the high standard of customer service at all times.

With experience of working in a Customer Care environment or dealing with enquiries from the public - face-to-face and by telephone, you will have the ability to undertake calculations for customers involving numeracy e.g. adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, and should be able to produce concise and accurate interview notes and deal with enquiries.

Apply now online at www.luton.gov.uk/jobs if you experience problems applying online, please call 01582 546621 during office hours.

Closing date: 16 February 2012. **Ref: 12/0044**

The Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION · INVESTORS IN PEOPLE · LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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We're not looking for a buildings/technical expert – but we are looking for experience of staff management and managing a support service function or service/call centre within a customer focused and quality driven environment, preferably including performance and budget management. Ref: RHTM/RAM.

Closing date: 24 February 2012.
Interviews: 7 March 2012.

Excited? We would really love to tell you more. For an application pack, please visit our website.

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- Be flexible with availability
- Have a good standard of English
- Be able to follow instructions precisely.

To apply online please visit www.luton.gov.uk/jobs and click on the link to Teaching and Schools Vacancies.

Closing date: 20 February 2012. **Ref: 40/0308**

Interview date: 29 February 2012.

Informal visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.

Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.

Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

We value equality because quality services needthe best people - from the whole community.

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUTO UMBAU LIMITED
Specialist vehicle applications

Auto Umbau Limited is a small engineering company, providing specialist vehicle solutions to the automotive industry and the emergency services. The company is based at the English Heritage site of Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. With a growing order book we currently have the following vacancy.

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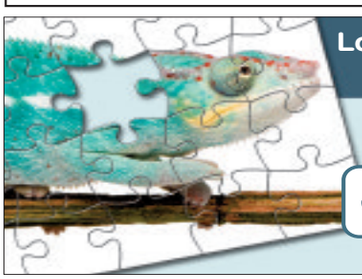
Remuneration will depend on your experience and skill set.

Should you be interested in applying for this role, please apply in writing with your CV/portfolio and references to: Mr R McKenzie, Auto Umbau Limited, 47B Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4HS.



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We publish award winning and market leading local newspapers in Beds, Bucks & Northants. Within our portfolio we also have rapidly growing websites and a number of successful magazines and niche products. LSN Media has gained a reputation for delivering quality, hard hitting news and advertising solutions that provide results for our valued customers. Due to our success and continued investment, our Luton office has the following vacancies:-

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We are looking for highly motivated individuals to work on the Luton on Sunday and Luton & Dunstable Express. These roles involve maintaining already established customer bases by setting effective & exciting campaigns as well as gaining new business through canvassing and cold calling. Although you will be mainly working on the Luton on Sunday, you are encouraged to cross sell into the other LSN titles in Milton Keynes, Bedford & Northampton.
These positions would suit tenacious, hungry and experienced sales people who understand the importance of providing the highest level of customer service.
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Please send your CV with a covering letter explaining why you would be suitable for either role to Jackie Bevan, Commercial Manager, Luton on Sunday, 28 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP
email: jackie.bevan@lutononsunday.co.uk

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It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide equal opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union memberships.

BEDFORD GIRLS SCHOOL

Maternity Cover – Full Time Teacher of Biology

Required from the start of the Summer Term 2012, a well-qualified graduate to join a lively and successful team of specialist staff in this selective independent girls' school. The post would suit a specialist who is enthusiastic about their subject and motivated to encourage and inspire bright, talented girls. A wide co-curriculum is offered to which staff are expected to contribute.

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An application form and detailed job description can be downloaded from our website: www.bedfordgirlsschool.co.uk (Connected Community / Employment Opportunities) or requested by email from hr@bedfordgirlsschool.co.uk

Closing date: Monday 20th February 2012

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced CRB check. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Fundraising & Marketing Officer
The Marston Vale Trust
Hours negotiable between 22-37 hours per week
Salary c.£22,000 (pro rata)

The Marston Vale Trust is the environmental charity committed to creating the Forest of Marston Vale. Our challenge is to use trees and woodlands to transform 61 square miles between Bedford and Milton Keynes, repairing a landscape scarred by decades of clay extraction, brick-making and landfill, by increasing woodland cover from 3% to 30% by 2031. We're working with local communities, government and businesses to create new woods and other wild places for everyone to enjoy.

The Trust is seeking an enthusiastic, driven and articulate individual who cares passionately about improving our environment and will work creatively to secure substantial project funding to help create the Forest of Marston Vale. The Fundraising & Marketing Officer will work within a successful delivery team and lead on all fundraising and business development activities of the Marston Vale Trust, including helping with marketing and PR activities.

The successful candidate will have some fundraising, business development or other relevant experience and be experienced in researching funding opportunities and securing funding from a wide range of sources including corporate clients. They will be a highly motivated and creative self-starter, with excellent oral and written communication skills, first-rate organisational and analytical skills and will possess a good appreciation of project implementation, as well as the ability to work within tight deadlines.

The successful candidate will join a small, experienced and highly motivated team that has secured and invested over £20m in environmental projects over the past 15 years, delivering significant benefits for people and wildlife.

The post is based at the Forest Centre & Millennium Country Park, Marston Moretaine, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK43 0PR. It is a permanent position, and working hours are negotiable (between 22-37 hours per week), with flexible working, job share and/or part home-based working possibilities.

For an application pack containing more information and an application form please contact Charlie Gardner at HR Initiatives via **info@hrinitiatives.co.uk** or 01438 742056. For an informal chat about the post contact James Russell, Forest Director on 01234 762607.

Closing date: 12th March 2012
Interviews: 23rd March 2012

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GAS FIRE with cream surround & marble hearth, vgc, £150, 01582 576755

28" TV panasonic, silver with remote, hardly used, bargain, £35, 07846 373784

LEATHER 3PC suite, vgc, £200, could deliver, 01582 520708, 07540 771161

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Public Notices

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
(HILLBOROUGH CRESCENT, HOUGHTON REGIS)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012

Central Bedfordshire

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Bedfordshire Council has made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle, except a vehicle being used for fire, police or ambulance purposes in an emergency, from proceeding along the full length of Hillborough Crescent, Houghton Regis.

This temporary closure is required to enable carriageway surfacing works to take place and shall apply to such extent as may from time to time be indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. Where possible access will be maintained to property and premises but may be restricted from time to time according to local signing.

It is expected that the works will take place from Saturday 11th to Thursday 16th February 2012 between 8am and 6pm. Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to the time.

The alternative routes available for vehicles affected by the proposed Order are:-

Proceed on Sundon Road from east or west to access estate as signed.

The proposed Order will come into operation on 11th February 2012 for a period of four months or until the proposed works have been completed, as detailed above, whichever is the earlier.

For further information please contact Central Bedfordshire Highways, Tel: 0300 300 8049.

(PORZ AVENUE, DUNSTABLE)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Bedfordshire Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle, except a vehicle being used for fire, police or ambulance purposes in an emergency, from proceeding along that length of Porz Avenue, Dunstable which extends from Lovett Way to Boscombe Road.

This temporary closure is required to enable carriageway surfacing works to take place and shall apply to such extent as may from time to time be indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. Where possible access will be maintained to property and premises but may be restricted from time to time according to local signing.

It is expected that the works will take place on ONE WEEK from 27th February to 3rd March 2012 between 8pm and 6am. Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to the time.

The alternative routes available for vehicles affected by the proposed Order are:-

Proceed on Boscombe Rd in a southerly direction to Eyncourt Rd. Take 1st exit and continue to Lovett Way. Take 1st exit and continue to Porz Ave and site and vice versa.

The proposed Order will come into operation on 27th February 2012 for a period of four months or until the proposed works have been completed, as detailed above, whichever is the earlier.

For further information please contact Central Bedfordshire Highways, Tel: 0300 300 8049.

DATED 8th February 2011

Central Bedfordshire Council
Technology House, Ampthill
Bedford MK42 9BD

BASIL JACKSON
Road Assistant Director for Highways

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING)(AMENDMENT NO. 55) ORDER 2012
THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 37) ORDER 2012
THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ORDER) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2012
THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (CONTROLLED PARKING AREA) (AMENDMENT NO. 5) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th February 2012, Luton Borough Council the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Orders under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order will come into operation on Monday 27th February 2012.

The effect of the Orders will be to:-

1. Revoke and remove Disabled Parking Bays outside 63 Ferndale Road, 19 Highfield Road, 211a Park Street, 39 Ross Close, 101 Shelley Road, 110 Talbot Road, 168 Whipperley Way, opposite 1 Windmill Road, 2 Wulwards Court, 7 Vernon Road.
2. Introduce a Disabled Parking Bay for 4 Wimborne Road.
3. Extend an existing residents parking bay to include frontage of No 8 Kenilworth Road.
4. Revoke and remove Doctors Only parking bays on Cosgrove Way.
5. Revoke and remove the loading bay and extend the Pay and Display operating times to the parking bay outside No's 65-75 High Town Road.
6. Reinstate a No Waiting Monday-Saturday 8am-6pm restriction on Grampian Way.
7. Introduce various lengths of No Waiting at Anytime restrictions on Fourth Avenue and Grampian Way and revoke a short length of No Waiting at Anytime restriction on Tenth Avenue.
8. Amend various restriction anomalies on Marsh Road from Willow Way to Limbury Road.
9. Amend references for Bridge Street in Schedule 15 and Tenth Avenue in Schedule 1 of the Traffic Management order 2011 and introduce references to permitted vehicles into Articles 17 and 21 of Street Parking Places Order 2009.

A copy of each Order, together with a plan showing the roads and lengths of roads affected and a Statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected at the Parking Shop at the Town Hall, Luton (public entrance in Gordon Street) between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that they are not within the powers contained in the above Act or any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Orders, may, within six weeks of the date on which the Orders were made, apply to the High Court for this purpose.

12th February 2012

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

Public Notices

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (LEAGRAVE ROAD)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 25th February 2012 and cease operation after a period of 1 month or when the proposed works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate examination of the railway bridge.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

12th February 2012

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD	TIMES
Leagrave Road.	From its junction with Althorp Road to to its roundabout junction with Selbourne Road.	11.00pm - 6.00am

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (DUDLEY STREET)
(TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th February 2012 Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 8th February 2012 and cease operation after a period of 6 months or when the proposed works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. Specific dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to pedestrians the footpath and length of footpath in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to enable demolition and reconstruction of the property No.6-8 Dudley Street.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for pedestrians will be marked by signs.

12th February 2012

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

SCHEDULE

FOOTPATH	LENGTH OF FOOTPATH
Dudley Street.	Between No.6-8 Dudley Street.

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (PURWAY CLOSE)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 20th February 2012 and cease operation after a period of 18 months or when the proposed works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to enable demolition works of the flats and garages.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to the Purley Centre car-park and to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

12th February 2012

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Purway Close.	The whole length.

Public Notices

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
(TODDINGTON: PART OF FOOTPATH NO 35)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

Central Bedfordshire

Notice is hereby given that the Order made by Central Bedfordshire Council on the 7 February 2011 the effect of which will be to prohibit any person proceeding on foot along Footpath No 35, Toddington which extends from Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OS GR) TL 0193 2970 (Map point A) in a north westerly direction for approximately 319 metres to OS GR TL 0168 2990 (Map point B) has been continued in force with the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport until 14 August 2012.

This temporary closure is required to allow for construction works to be carried out for the new Junction 12 of the M1. The closure is expected to continue from Tuesday 14 February 2012 for up to six months.

There is no alternative route for footpath users while the closure is in operation.

The Order will continue in force until 14 August 2012 or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. If the works are not completed within six months the Order may be extended for a longer period with the consent of the Secretary of State for Transport.

For further information, please contact Michelle Flynn, Central Bedfordshire Council, Tel: 0300 300 6072

DATED 8 February 2012

Technology House
Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9BD

DAVID LEVERINGTON
Rights of Way Team Leader

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (VARIOUS ROADS)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES) (No.3) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th February 2012 Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 12th February 2012 and cease operation after 24 hours or when the proposed procession has finished, whichever is the earlier. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the procession and it is anticipated that the procession will finish over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the safe passage of highway users partaking in The Annual Milad Procession from Bury Park to The Town Hall and back again, leaving from Luton Central Mosque on Westbourne Road heading to the Town Hall using a rolling road closure.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

12th February 2012

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Dunstable Road	From its junction with Westbourne Road to its junction with Telford Way
Birch Link	The entire length
Leagrave Road	Between Birch Link and Bury Park Road
Bury Park Road	The entire length
Crawley Road	The entire length
Telford Way	The entire length
A6 New Bedford Road	Between Telford Way and Manchester Street

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (VARIOUS ROADS)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES) (NO.2) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th February 2012 Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 12th February 2012 and cease operation after 6 months or when the proposed works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the roads and length of roads in the schedules below. Roads in schedule 1 will be closed from 12th February 2012 for up to 4 weeks. Roads in schedule 2 will be closed from 4th March 2012 for up to 4 weeks. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above unless any such works are delayed by unforeseen circumstances from being carried out on the dates shown new dates will be indicated by on-site information signs.

The purpose of the Order is to enable construction of a signalised junction for the Aquatic Centre.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

12th February 2012

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

SCHEDULE 1

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Hitchin Road	Periodic sections of the inbound carriageway from Hitchin to Luton Town Centre. From the roundabout junction of Great Marlings to outside of No.668 in order to accommodate a traffic contra-flow system.
Lothair Road	At its junction with Hitchin Road.

SCHEDULE 2

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Cannon Lane	At its junction with Hitchin Road.
Hitchin Road	Periodic sections of both inbound and outbound carriageways from outside of No.641 to the roundabout junction of Great Marlings in order to accommodate a traffic contra-flow system.
Mountgrace Road	At its junction with Hitchin Road.

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HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (SHEEP LANE TO DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 201_

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A5 Trunk Road in Bedfordshire to enable carriageway resurfacing and associated maintenance works to be carried out in safety.

The works are expected to start on or after Monday 5 March 2012, to last for approximately 5 nights (9pm – 6am), and would be carried out in phases using carriageway closures.

The effect of the Order would be to close the A5 -

- between its junctions with Sheep Lane/Woburn Road Roundabout and the A4012 Leighton Road, Hockliffe – diverting southbound traffic via the A4146 at Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout, A505 to rejoin the A5 north of Chalk Hill Houghton Regis and vice versa for northbound traffic, and
- between its junctions with Sewell Lane and French's Avenue, Dunstable – diverting southbound traffic via Thorn Road, A5120 Bedford Road, Houghton Regis and A5120 Houghton Road, Dunstable and vice versa for northbound traffic.

Access to or from properties fronting the A5 would be maintained during the works period.

The closures (which would not apply to emergency service, winter service maintenance, traffic officer or works vehicles) and diversion routes would be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the works.

The Order would come into force on 27 February 2012 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Mrs A V Middleton, An official of the Highways Agency

General Enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to Andy Shilliday at the Highways Agency Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7LW or by telephoning 01234 796197.

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A feast of floral delights

Departs 25 May, 27 Jul & 7 Sep 2012

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Includes • Coach travel throughout • Return Channel crossings via ferry/Eurotunnel • Three nights' B&B in a three-star hotel within coaching distance of the Floriade exhibition • A visit to Bruges • The services of a Tour Manager

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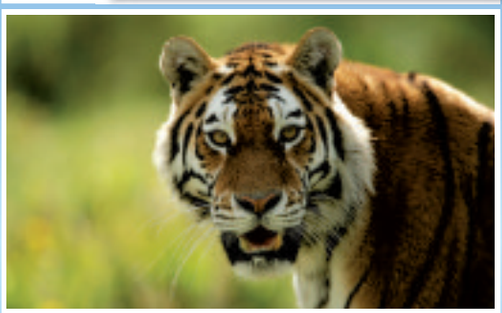

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VAUXHALL'S NEW CORSA

The Corsa, Vauxhall's second best-selling model after the Astra, and a near-permanent fixture in the UK's top-three best sellers' list, has now adopted many of the premium styling cues from other recently launched Vauxhalls, such as the Insignia, Astra and Meriva.

Styled by Niels Loeb, Vauxhall/Opel's Chief Exterior Designer working in Brit, Mark Adams' design team, the new Corsa features a signature chrome bar, carrying the new Griffin badge, stretching across the front grille, while a re-styled front bumper with a more prominent, wider lower grille gives the Corsa a smiling appearance.

Framing the Corsa's new face are 'Eagle-Eye' headlamps, which have also made an appearance on the recently launched Meriva. The units have a chrome finish and include daytime running lights as standard across the range. New chrome-finished fog lamps and housings complete the picture at the front of the car.

Complementing the Corsa's fresh look are five new exterior colours in the range. Lime Green pearlescent (see pic) and Chilli Orange metallic enhance the car's new look, with Guacamole (see pic) – a solid hue – completing the pallet of all-new Vauxhall colours. Sunny Melon (a bright yellow) makes a welcome return to the Corsa range, while Pepperdust metallic is carried across from the new Meriva range

Vibrant new colours also dominate the Corsa's cabin, with seat trims such as Steel Blue and Tabasco Orange brightening the interior, accompanied by a range of different coloured door trims, centre consoles, air vent rings and door handles.

Also inside, is Vauxhall's new optional Touch & Connect multi-media system, which replaces the existing CD60 unit. Touch & Connect uses a five-inch touch screen display featuring both 2D and 3D maps for the navigation system, as well as a CD/tuner, aux-in, USB and Bluetooth mobile phone connectivity.

Outside, the new Corsa benefits from new 16-inch alloy wheels on both SE and SXi models, while the 192PS VXR receives the option of a new 18-inch alloy wheel, modelled on the design of the optional 20-inch wheel worn by the Insignia VXR.

To maintain its success in the small-car class, Vauxhall's engineers also made important revisions to the car's steering and suspension set-ups. Softer springs were employed in the front suspension, mated to an anti-roll bar with new bushes and an increased diameter, improving ride and control characteristics.

Complementing this were revised damper setting all round, an optional re-tuned ESP system and enhanced steering geometry, ensuring that the Corsa remained as pleasurable to drive as it was economical to own.

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Renault Megane Authentique, 06 reg, silver, blue cloth interior, electric windows, a/c, PAS, ABS, 62k..... **£3,495**

Rover 75 Connoisseur Diesel, 52 plate, a/c, sat nav, e/w, electric seats, ABS, blue leather trim, 87k **£3,250**

MG TF 1.6L, 04 reg, 56k, convertible, silver, cd, anti lock brakes, pas, alarm, alloys, fsh, multiple airbags, title check, half leather trim, electric windows **£3,250**

Peugeot 206 1.1L, 04 reg, 71k, silver, cd, e/w, pas, c/l, immobiliser..... **£2,999**

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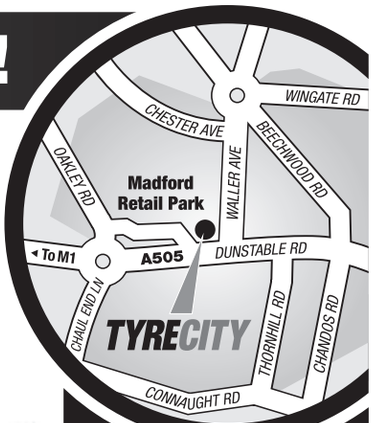

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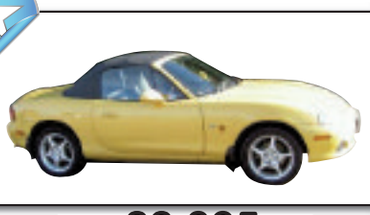

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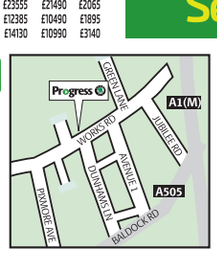

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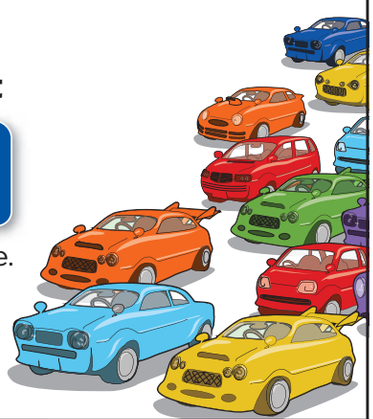

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Andre Boucaud

Frustrating delay for Boucaud

ANDRE Boucaud was a cut-price bargain according to Gary Brabin and now the Luton boss is just desperate to show off his purchase.

The midfielder signed on transfer deadline day from York City for £25,000 but a combination of the current cold snap and being cuptied has made it a frustrating fortnight at for all concerned.

And yesterday's postponed Blue Square Bet Premier game at Forest Green Rovers means that the wait for Boucaud's debut will now stretch to at least the three-week mark.

"When you see some of the money people are paying in this league now, I don't think it's a massive sum," Brabin said of his latest signing.

"There are a lot of teams and some of the so-called lesser teams are paying bigger money for players.

"It's good business for the club. He's a good player and we just want him to come in now, show what he's capable of and help us achieve our goal."

The manager added: "Andre has settled in really well. The conditions haven't been ideal but we are delighted as a coaching staff that we've been able to get in what we've needed. We can see what a good player Andre is. I'm sure he's enjoying his time here and he's chomping at the bit to play."

Brabin reflects on injury woes

THE revolving door to the Luton Town treatment table has not stopped turning all season and, in terms of the problem, Gary Brabin has had to perform such a juggling act that it wouldn't have been a surprise if Billy Smart's Circus had been on the phone on transfer deadline day.

This week has been no different as the Hatters welcomed defenders Shane Blackett and Dean Beckwith back into the fold, while wide man Charlie Henry continued his lengthy rehabilitation in the 2-1 FA Trophy third round victory over Kidderminster Harriers.

And while yesterday's postponement of the trip to Forest Green Rovers denied the centre halves a chance to turn out again for the Hatters - Henry hasn't trained since Tuesday - it has given another band of crocked stars a chance to further their recovery.

Brabin said: "We've got them (Blackett, Beckwith and Henry) but we've also lost Amari Morgan-Smith again, Dan Gleeson, James Dance and Keith Keane.

"It has been frustrating in terms of injuries this year. We are coping with it quite well, but it's always a boost when you get your players back."

Danny Crow, Craig McAllister and Aaron O'Connor all returned to training this week after missing the match at Aggborough, while talismanic midfielder Keane (hamstring) is expected to return in a week.

But the prognosis isn't quite as promising for winger Dance (ankle), top scorer Morgan-Smith (hamstring) and right back Dan Gleeson, who has suffered a recurrence of the foot injury which kept him out at the start of the campaign.

And then there is left back Freddie Murray who isn't expected to return this term.

Brabin continued: "I don't want to be too personal on the injury front but they are serious.

"Amari's is one that he's had problems with. [After] the last bit of treatment he had, we are hopeful that he'll be back training in the next three weeks."

He added: "It is hard when you miss your big players but you can't rely too much on one or two players. It's important you've got a good squad.

"Fortunately enough I think we have and we've just got to keep pushing on and getting maximum points."

He'll need all the reinforcements he can get as yesterday's enforced day off will further fill up the calendar which is already busy due to Town's march into the quarter finals of the FA Trophy, where they will face either Gateshead or Alfreton at home on February 25.

It's the second successive weekend that freezing conditions have left a blank in the schedule and that comes with other difficulties.

Brabin said: "The hardest problem is just preparing in terms of training.

"We've been on the third generation [pitch] at Dunstable and that's been a big help but that's not ideal either with the ice.

"It's frustrating. It is what it is and we can't do anything about it."

He added: "We are chomping at the bit to play games now. We are in that period where they come thick and fast and people will be saying, 'would you be glad of a rest?'

"That's why it's important that we've got a good squad of players. They've all got to be in contention and we've got to get them all fit and up to speed. I'm sure they've all got a big part to play."

Super Stu just

Waiting game over Hatters striker's form is paying off for chief Gary

BY JAMES CUNLIFFE
james.cunliffe@lutononsunday.com

STUART Fleetwood's form has never been a concern for Hatters' boss Gary Brabin who has drawn comparisons with French star Robert Pires as a player who took time to adapt to Arsenal before asserting himself as a Gunners' hero.

The Luton manager believes his striker is starting to come to terms with the pressure cooker environment of life at Kenilworth Road after a midweek match-winning performance at Kidderminster to book a quarter final berth in the FA Trophy.

"I've never doubted Stuart Fleetwood's ability - that's why we brought him to the club," Brabin explained.

"There are a lot of factors but it's really evident when you see foreign players come to this country. If you look at some of the best ones, like Pires, it took him 12 months before he started being an Arsenal legend.

"That's very common in football and it takes a lot of people time. Even in this country if you go into a different type of club, atmosphere and football, it does take time to adapt."

He added: "It's a combination of things. This is a big club, there's a big expectancy and I think it's common that most strikers and goalscorers are confidence players."

The forward was signed from Hereford on the last day of the summer transfer window and came within the width of a post from making a hero's cameo appearance on his debut at Stockport.

Fleetwood has found regular first team action hard to come by but he's found his feet in the FA Trophy where he has netted in every round of the competition so far.

Brabin said: "When Stuart first came in I thought he was brilliant and it was exactly what we needed.

"He'll be the first to admit that he didn't perform to those standards and he's been in and out of the squad. We've certainly seen enough over the pitch. When we got hold of the ball I didn't think they could live with us when we started passing and moving. Obviously the conditions weren't too good, the pitch wasn't great and it was freezing cold, and it was one of those where we could have put it to the back of our minds and not tried as hard. But we came here and gave a really professional performance, and we worked our socks off."

The main thing for Henry now is to cement his place in the starting 11 and he is motivated by a desire to pay back the loyalty shown to him while out injured.

Henry said: "It was touch and go that I might have to hang my boots up with it being such a bad injury, but I've come back stronger and willing to prove a point. I owe the club and the fans, and I just want to pay them back with one hundred and ten percent work rate, and hopefully getting promoted."

Henry is in a real hurry to get back into old routine

CHARLIE Henry is determined to force his way into the reckoning at Luton Town after returning from his two-month loan spell at Aldershot Town.

The midfielder made his long-awaited return from injury in the FA Cup win over Hendon back in October before being sent out on loan to get more first team football action.

Henry's stint with League Two Aldershot saw him feature six times, starting three games, and he feels that has benefitted him on his return to Kenilworth Road.

"The first few games I was on the bench and coming on, but the last three I did really well," said the 24-year-old. "I feel my fitness is back up and I'm just raring to go.

"Obviously I was out for over a year with it and that killed me, but now I'm back into the swing of things I just want to play football now.

"I want to work hard and show the gaffer what I can do. I've been working hard in training and trying to show him that. He's had a bit of faith in me by playing me and I thought I did well. The squad is really good here and hopefully I can give what I can for the club because I want to play here."

Henry found himself back in the Luton starting line-up for Tuesday night's FA Trophy victory over Kidderminster Harriers, playing 86 minutes as part of the midfield three.

Both him and Jon Paul Kissock combined well as the Hatters claimed a 2-1 win to progress to the quarter finals, and that is a role Henry could well be reprising.

He said: "The gaffer said to me he thinks I would do well in there. He wants me and JP to get on the ball and I thought we did that. I felt that I worked hard and got on the ball, and the front three started working hard from the front to help us work it all

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coming to boil

FINDING HIS FEET: Stuart Fleetwood

Fleetwood has eyes on a trip down Wembley way

STRIKER Stuart Fleetwood has backed Luton Town to banish their woes from the penalty spot sooner rather than later after becoming the latest player to suffer from 12 yards.

In fairness, Fleetwood's missed spot kick in the 2-1 midweek FA Trophy win over Kidderminster Harriers was more to do with the excellent save by Dean Lyness.

However, it was still the seventh time the Hatters have failed to convert a penalty this season. The striker is not worried by that, though.

"It's nothing to do with not being accomplished penalty takers because everyone can do that as a footballer," he said.

"You should be able to score from 12 yards, but if you hit the post or the keeper saves it, or it goes wide, it's just one of those things and you get on with it.

"Obviously we might be in a better position if we did tuck away our penalties, but it's just one of those things.

"It's not luck or anything like that, it's just one of those things that sometimes it goes through or it doesn't.

"I hit it well enough, but the keeper made a good save. I was disappointed not to score but happy that we went through in the end."

Despite his penalty being saved, Fleetwood played a big part in the victory at Aggborough that booked Luton's spot in the quarter finals.

It was him who provided the assist for Jake Howells' opener, and then on the stroke of half time the 25-year-old grabbed the goal that proved to be the difference on the night.

A home tie against either Gateshead or Alfreton Town awaits the Hatters in the quarter finals and Fleetwood has his eyes on going all the way.

"That's on the boys' minds," he said. "As a footballer you want to play at Wembley, it doesn't matter what competition it is in.

"From the team we put out and the way we played we've shown to everybody how much this competition does mean to us.

"We want to win every game we play as professionals, so we're happy to get through to the next round and a home tie is nice."

His goal kept up Fleetwood's record of scoring in every round of the competition so far this season, taking him to nine for the season.

He feels that he is starting to get back to his best form, although he has not set himself any targets for the number of goals he wants to get this season

Fleetwood said: "I just want to try to get as many as I can, and in every game I play in I want to try to score a goal.

"I think the last three games I've played in I have scored and that's important for me as a striker.

"My game is based on goals, so if I can get into double figures I'll see how I get on from there.

"I've scored in every round so I wanted to keep that going. It was a strong Kidderminster team and we put out a strong team as well, and it was a great game to watch.

"We played some good football, created some good chances and we could have been four up at half time, but we crossed the line in the end."

in training and we haven't given up hope on him.

"We've had a few chats, he's taken it on board and he's started to show the sort of form from when he first came."

FIT AGAIN: Charlie Henry in Tuesday's 2-1 FA Trophy third round win at Kidderminster Harriers

Clubs are given warning over the status of match officials

THE Football Association's Disciplinary Manager Mark Ives has reminded clubs to be extra vigilant when appointing match officials to fixtures after a Bedfordshire referee with a five-year ban from football activity has carried on taking charge of matches.

Colin Denison, who has been banned from football activity since November 2011, has continued refereeing despite having his registration removed by the Bedfordshire FA.

And Ives says local clubs should be aware of who they're appointing for matches.

"No-one wants to see local clubs landing themselves in hot water by taking part in a match with people who are banned or suspended from football.

"It's against FA rules and regulations and our advice is to be 100 per cent certain on who you're appointing to referee or even picking to play for your club."

The North Home Counties Sunday League and their League Officer, Ralph Morris, were also deemed culpable by The FA in the wake of the Colin Denison case.

Morris was suspended from refereeing for three months, suspended from holding an administrative position within a league for a period of three years and fined £150 for assisting Denison in getting appointments while the league were fined £500.

Mike Newell

Newell: Not much respect for FA

■ continued from back

wrong because they didn't act when they should have acted."

Though Stuart Pearce has been installed as interim England manager for the home friendly against Holland later this month, the hunt is now on for Capello's successor, with the bookmakers' favourite being Tottenham Hotspur chief Harry Redknapp. But Newell is suspicious about the qualifications of the FA Board in picking their candidate.

He said: "In an ideal world you would like football people to make those decisions but there are no football people apart from Trevor Brooking on the FA and there never have been.

"It's a body that I don't have that much respect for.

[When] appointing any manager – there are very few football clubs that have experienced football people making those decisions, so a lot of it is down to luck – a little bit of an educated guess, if you like."

The big freeze strikes again

THE cold weather put paid to yesterday's sporting fixtures as rugby and football clubs alike saw games postponed due to frozen pitches. The Bedfordshire Football Association had announced as early as Thursday Luton Borough Council and Dunstable Town Council's decisons to postpone all matches on park pitches before snowfall that night left surfaces unplayable.

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Brabin: I won't be bullied to sell Poku

BY JAMES CUNLIFFE
james.cunliffe@lutononsunday.com

GARY Brabin says he won't be forced into selling or loaning Godfrey Poku back to Southport.

The Luton boss responded to comments from Sandgrounders manager Liam Watson who admitted this week that even a £25,000 bid wouldn't have been enough to prise the midfielder away from the Hatters.

A successful loan spell at Haig Avenue saw Poku's stock rise at the Merseyside club but that deal ended last month and Brabin reiterated that the 21-year-old is going nowhere.

"I haven't heard any of these rumours or quotes," he said, adding: "I'm certainly not going to be bullied into selling him or him going back on loan. Me and Liam are good friends and I'm getting pressure from one end about Godfrey Poku.

"Now he's come back to us I certainly don't regret it. I know Godfrey doesn't regret it as it's been a fantastic experience for him.

"He's certainly part of our squad and let's see if he keeps developing. He was part of our last league fixture so he's very much part of our plans.

"Liam has done a fantastic job at Southport and I'm sure he's getting it in the neck from his board and supporters, saying, 'are we getting Godfrey back?'

"It's not that easy. He's done a service for them.

"I'm sure Liam will continue working miracles, that he has done at the club and bring someone else in."

GONE: Fabio Capello (left) during an appearance at Luton Town's Kenilworth Road in 2008

FA and Fabio both got it wrong, blasts Newell

FOOTBALL

MIKE Newell has criticised both the Football Association and now departed England boss Fabio Capello for the way they handled stripping John Terry of the Three Lions captaincy.

The game's governing body took the armband from the Chelsea defender last week after his court case over an alleged racist remark to QPR counterpart Anton Ferdinand was put back till after the summer's European Championships.

Capello has since resigned from his £6 million a year post after he appeared on Italian television to announce his dissatisfaction that the decision was taken above his head.

And former Luton Town manager Newell believes the situation was dealt with poorly from start to finish.

"As a manager you have to be in a strong position and Fabio Capello obviously felt he wasn't," he said in a radio interview, adding: "The problem I've got with that is that the Football Association should have made the decision that they've made when John Terry was charged with this offence, if they are talking about principles.

"Fabio Capello made a stand to have control but he should have made his decision when they made theirs, which was last week. It's alright saying about principles. Yes, he has to be strong and he has to say, 'you can't pick my team for me and you can't make those decisions for me', but I think they are both

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